

Application No.: 09/990604

Case No.: 57029US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8-15 and 17-24 are pending. Claims 1-3, 8-15 and 17-24 are allowed.

Objections

The disclosure stands objected to because of the following informalities:

The Patent Office asserts that paragraph at page 4, lines 2-5, defines the weight ratio of titanium to antimony, i.e., Ti/Sb. Table 1, column 3, on page 19 list the weight ratio of Sb/Ti. The numeric ranges on page 4 appear to correspond to the numeric values set forth in Table 1 but the ratios are inverted. The Patent Office notes that the amendment to the claims filed on December 8, 2003 sets forth the basis for the limitation of the weight ratio in claims 1 and 15 as page 19, Table 1, Examples 4-11. The Patent Office argues that since the description on page 4 and the data in Table 1 is inconsistent, applicants should check said ratio for correctness and/or explain the apparent inconsistency. The Patent Office indicates that any explanation should further include reference to the arguments made at page 12 of the December 8, 2003 filing. The Patent Office requires appropriate correction.

The specification at page 19 in Table 1, Examples 4-11, and relied upon as the basis for the amendment to the claims filed on December 8, 2003, is believed to be correct. However, it is believed that the apparent inconsistency between the specification in Table 1, Examples 4-11 and the indicated paragraph in the specification at page 4, lines 2-5 is due to an obvious inadvertent error during drafting of the application. Specifically, the ratio of antimony to titanium became inverted in paragraph in the specification at page 4, lines 2-5. An amended paragraph is included with this amendment that reconciles the apparent inconsistency. Thus, it is believed that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Comments Regarding the Claims

Claims 1-3, 8-15 and 17-24 are allowed.

The Patent Office suggests that applicants insert the definition in the specification at page 3 into the independent claims to make them read more clearly. Regarding the term "rutile-like"

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attention is directed to page 10 of the response filed December 8, 2003 and page 3, lines 16-17, of the instant specification.

Applicants submit that the meaning of the term "rutile-like" has been clearly established in the record, and believe that inclusion of the specific language from the specification into the independent claims renders them wordy and difficult to read. Accordingly, Applicants prefer not to further amend the independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

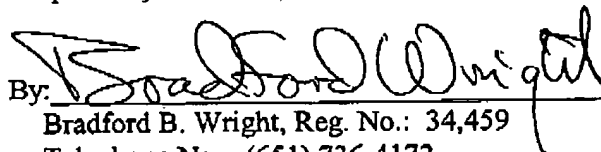
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 651-736-4172 to resolve any issues that can be handled with a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

Feb. 9, 2005

By:


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